

New Jersey Audubon Habitat Stewards Program



Cover & Places to Raise Young

How to Certify – It's Easy

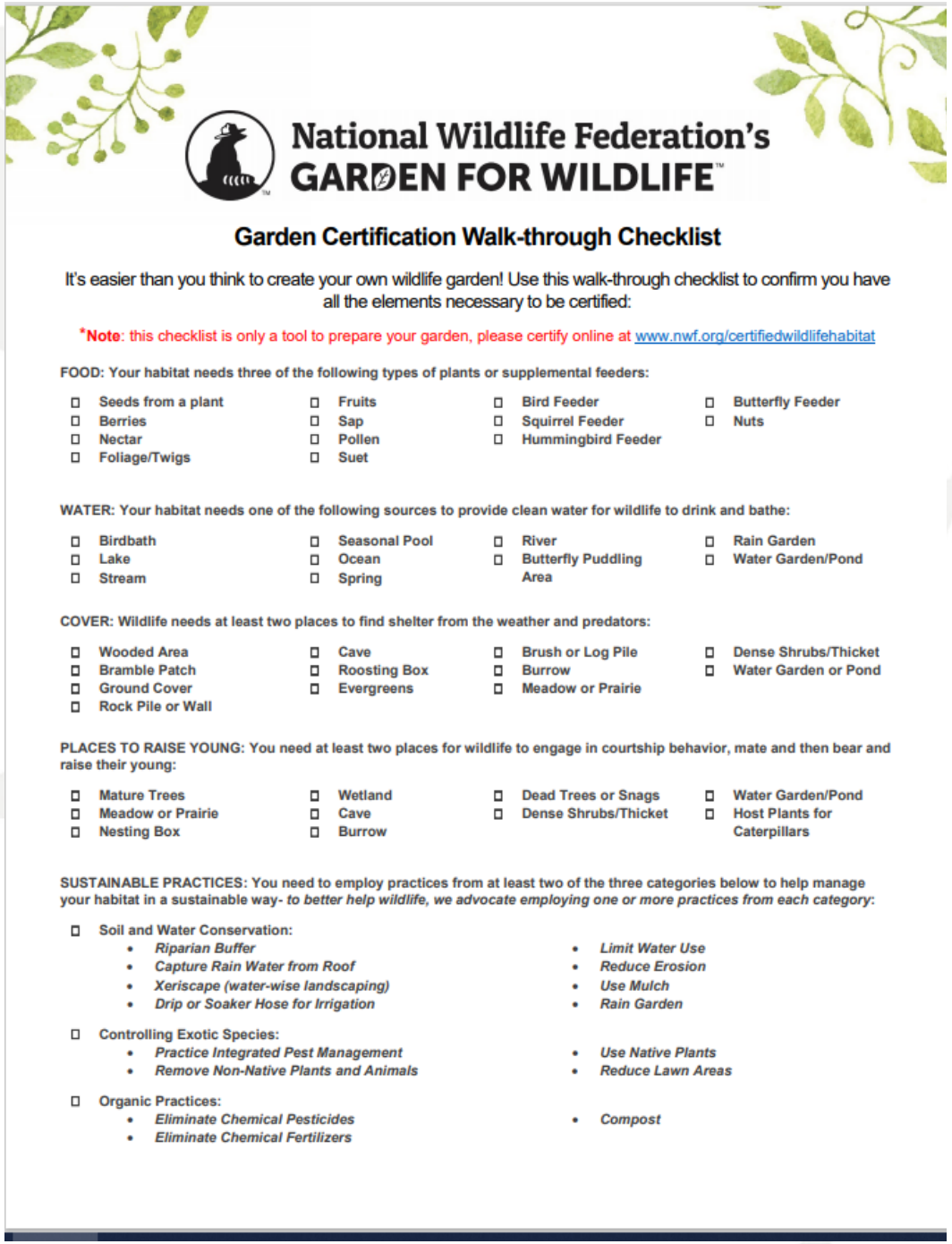
Food: Native plants provide food eaten by a variety of wildlife. Feeders can supplement natural food sources.

Water: All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing or breeding as well.

Cover: Wildlife need places to take shelter from bad weather and places to hide from predators or hunt for prey.

Places to Raise Young: Wildlife need resources to reproduce, and to protect and nourish their young.

Sustainable Practices: Maintain your yard or garden in natural ways to ensure soil, air, and water stay healthy and clean.



National Wildlife Federation's
GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE™

Garden Certification Walk-through Checklist

It's easier than you think to create your own wildlife garden! Use this walk-through checklist to confirm you have all the elements necessary to be certified:

*Note: this checklist is only a tool to prepare your garden, please certify online at www.nwf.org/certifiedwildlifehabitat

FOOD: Your habitat needs three of the following types of plants or supplemental feeders:

- ☐ Seeds from a plant
- ☐ Berries
- ☐ Nectar
- ☐ Foliage/Twigs
- ☐ Fruits
- ☐ Sap
- ☐ Pollen
- ☐ Suet
- ☐ Bird Feeder
- ☐ Squirrel Feeder
- ☐ Hummingbird Feeder
- ☐ Butterfly Feeder
- ☐ Nuts

WATER: Your habitat needs one of the following sources to provide clean water for wildlife to drink and bathe:

- ☐ Birdbath
- ☐ Lake
- ☐ Stream
- ☐ Seasonal Pool
- ☐ Ocean
- ☐ Spring
- ☐ River
- ☐ Butterfly Puddling Area
- ☐ Rain Garden
- ☐ Water Garden/Pond

COVER: Wildlife needs at least two places to find shelter from the weather and predators:

- ☐ Wooded Area
- ☐ Bramble Patch
- ☐ Ground Cover
- ☐ Rock Pile or Wall
- ☐ Cave
- ☐ Roosting Box
- ☐ Evergreens
- ☐ Brush or Log Pile
- ☐ Burrow
- ☐ Meadow or Prairie
- ☐ Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- ☐ Water Garden or Pond

PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG: You need at least two places for wildlife to engage in courtship behavior, mate and then bear and raise their young:

- ☐ Mature Trees
- ☐ Meadow or Prairie
- ☐ Nesting Box
- ☐ Wetland
- ☐ Cave
- ☐ Burrow
- ☐ Dead Trees or Snags
- ☐ Dense Shrubs/Thicket
- ☐ Water Garden/Pond
- ☐ Host Plants for Caterpillars

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES: You need to employ practices from at least two of the three categories below to help manage your habitat in a sustainable way- *to better help wildlife, we advocate employing one or more practices from each category*:

- ☐ Soil and Water Conservation:
  - *Riparian Buffer*
  - *Capture Rain Water from Roof*
  - *Xeriscape (water-wise landscaping)*
  - *Drip or Soaker Hose for Irrigation*
  - *Limit Water Use*
  - *Reduce Erosion*
  - *Use Mulch*
  - *Rain Garden*
- ☐ Controlling Exotic Species:
  - *Practice Integrated Pest Management*
  - *Remove Non-Native Plants and Animals*
  - *Use Native Plants*
  - *Reduce Lawn Areas*
- ☐ Organic Practices:
  - *Eliminate Chemical Pesticides*
  - *Eliminate Chemical Fertilizers*
  - *Compost*

Cover

- Wooded Area
- Bramble Patch
- Ground Cover
- Rock Pile or Wall
- Cave or Burrow
- Roosting Box
- Dense Shrubs or Thicket
- Evergreens
- Brush or Log Pile
- Meadow or Prairie
- Water Garden or Pond



Prey and Predator Need Cover





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Cover for Wildlife

Plants provide cover for wildlife

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Leave the Leaves

- An excuse to be “lazy”
- Leave the leaves and save the insects overwintering amongst them




TOAD HOUSE
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Cover for Wildlife

Plant densely to provide cover in the garden

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Hot Trend: Insect Hotels

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Places to Raise Young



- Trees: Mature or Dead
- Nesting Box
- Host Plants for Caterpillars
- Water Garden or Pond
- Burrow
- Cave

Places to Raise Young

Cavity nesters will use nesting boxes





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Nestboxes



Eastern Bluebird

Nesting Habitat	Open field or lawn, orchards, low or sparse ground covering. Entrance hole should face open field. Direction preference in order: east, north, south, then west.
Box Height	3-6 feet
Entrance Hole Size	1 ½” round
Minimum spacing	300 feet unless pairing for another species
Other Species	Tree swallows, house sparrows, titmice, house wrens. Downy woodpeckers may use for winter roost.








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Chickadees

Nesting Habitat	Forests and forest edges, woodlots, and yards with mature trees, meadows. Can add 1” of wood shavings in the box for them to excavate.
Box Height	5-15 feet
Entrance Hole Size	1 1/8” round
Minimum Spacing	Black-capped 650 feet Carolina 30 feet
Other Species	Wrens

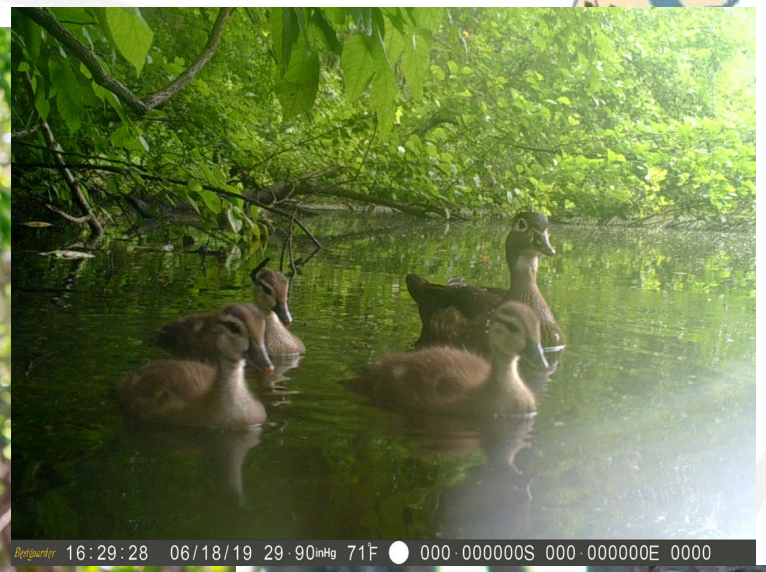




Wood Duck

Nesting Habitat	Forested wetland or near marshes, swamps, and ponds. Place 30-100 feet from the nearest water. Need a layer of wood chips/shavings at the bottom (never sawdust).
Box Height	6-30 feet
Entrance Hole	4” wide, 3” high
Minimum Spacing	600 feet
Other Species	Kestrel, screech owl, merganser, Northern flicker. Sometimes squirrels and flying squirrels.









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Create Your Own Nestbox



- Squat gourd
- Cut an oval shape hole for opening
- Drill drain holes in bottom
- Hang from a tree

- Carolina wren nest

NestWatch

Where Birds Come to Life

NestWatch is a nationwide nest-monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds. Participating in NestWatch is easy and anyone can do it.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Take the online quiz to get certified
2. Find nests
3. Record data
4. Submit online or with the mobile app

Let's start monitoring nests!



See the *Tufted Titmouse* nest plan

Photo © Enola-Gay

FEATURED CONTENT

All About Birdhouses
Construction plans, tips and more!

Nest and Egg ID
Identification made easy!

NestWatch Blog
Read about the latest research and other happenings.

Download the App
Find it on Google Play or the App Store!

Scientific Impact
Research requests, publications and more!

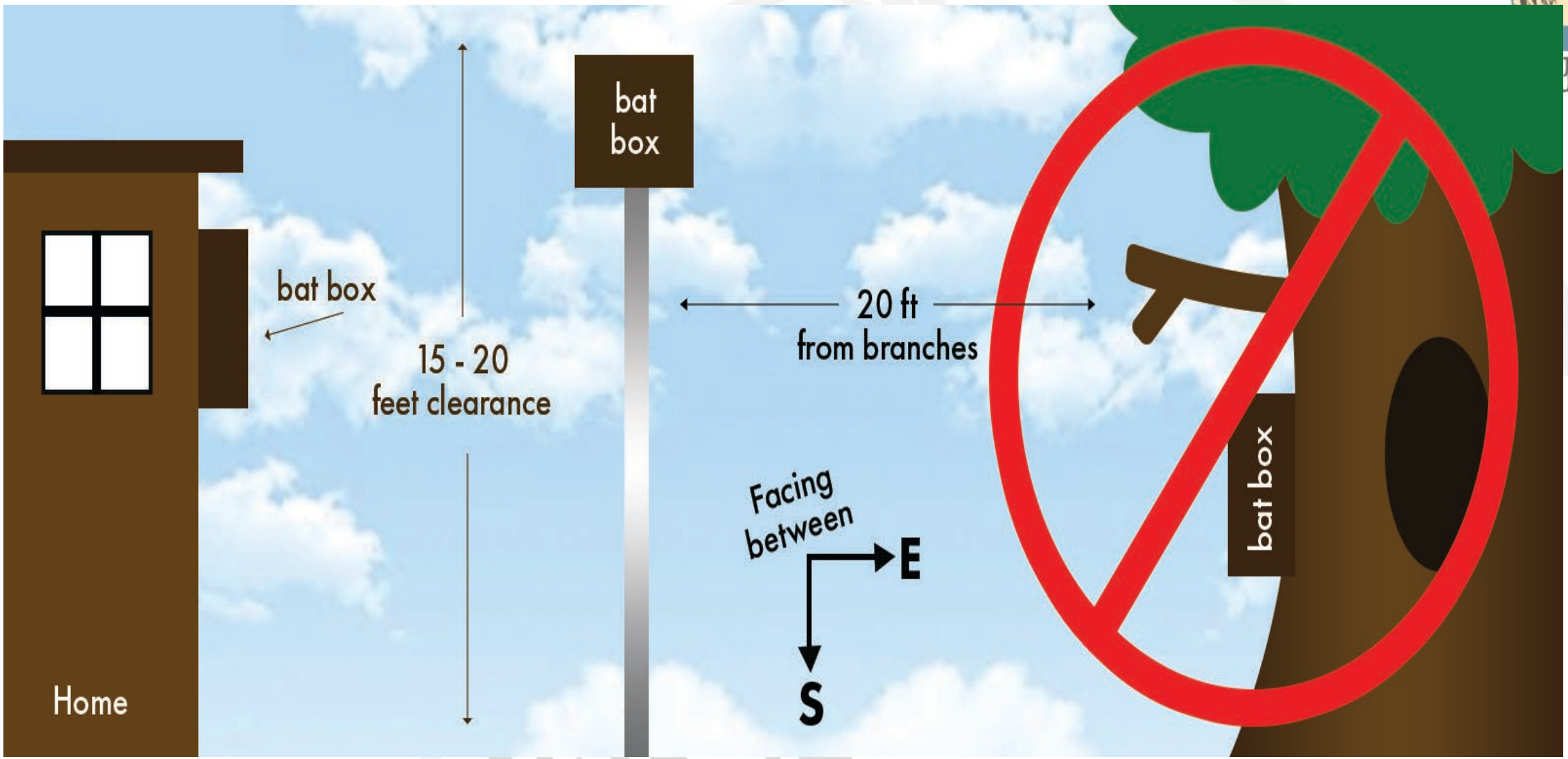
Build a nest box or nest structure for one of these birds



Eastern Bluebird | Tree Swallow | House Wren | Black-capped | Violet-green Swallow | Western Bluebird | American Robin | Eastern Phoebe | Barn Swallow | Mourning Dove | Prothonotary Warbler | Carolina Chickadee | Tufted Titmouse




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bat box
bat box
15 - 20 feet clearance
20 ft from branches
Facing between
E
S
bat box
Home

NATURE'S NATURAL PESTICIDE

Bats are nature's free and harmless pesticide!
They can eat up to 1,200 insects in an hour.
Pregnant mamas can eat more than their body weight in insects per night (4,500!).



Best locations: along streams, rivers, lakes or forrests since these are along natural bat flyaways

*Up to a 1/4 mile from a water source is preferrable





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Places to Raise Young

Some species have special habitat requirements for their young that are totally different than their adult phase





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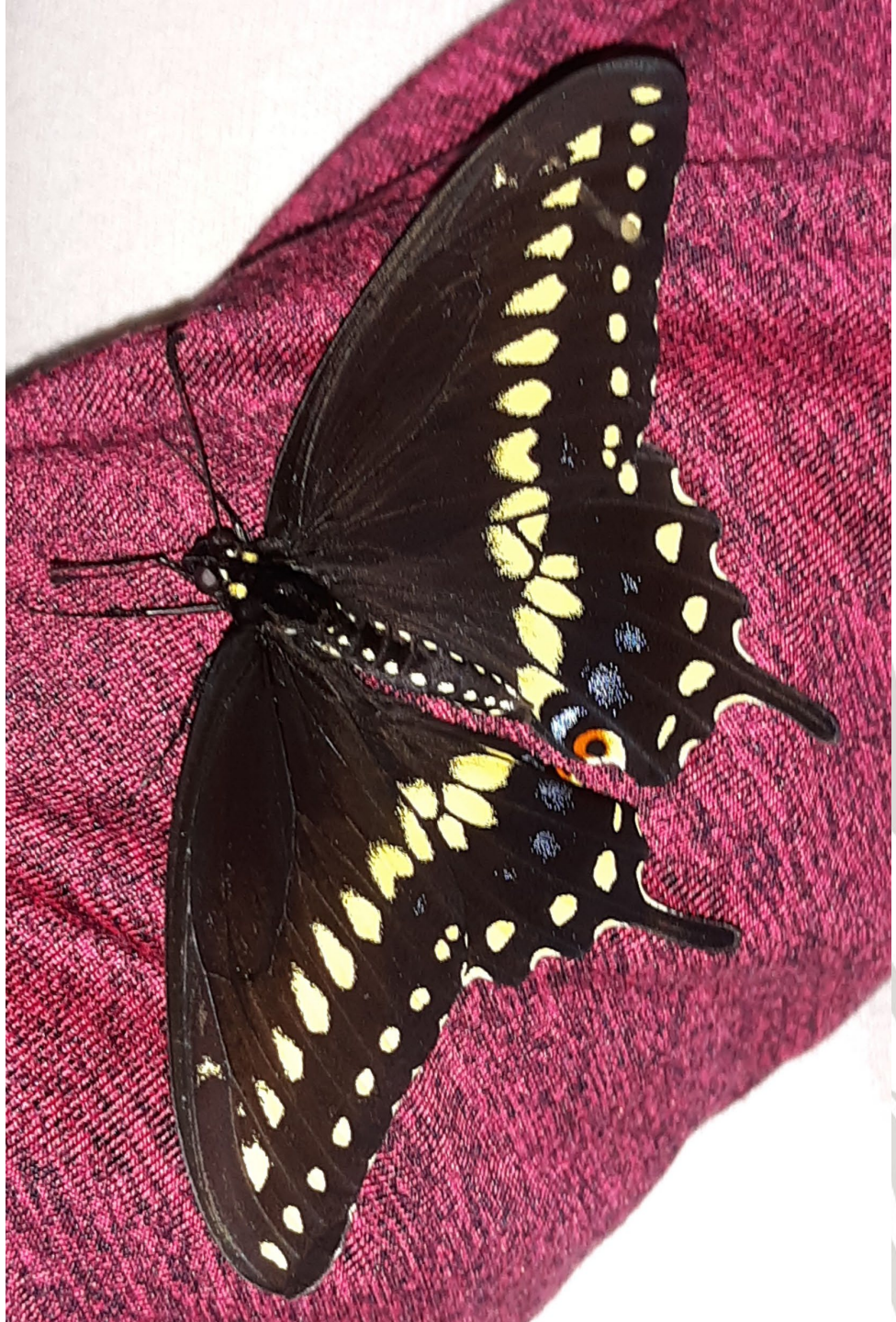
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Places to Raise Young

Native bees need tunnels in wood or in the ground for nesting.

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Places to Raise Young

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Plants Provide Places to Raise Young







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Use Sustainable Practices










Questions?
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NJAudubon.org/garden